

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-19 are pending in this patent application. Claims 1, 18 and 19 are currently amended. Claims 20-26 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 7, 9-12 and 17 are directed to non-elected species; however, these claims are withdrawn only if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Claims 1-5, 13-16, 20, 21 and 26 were indicated to be generic. Withdrawal of claims 7, 9-12 and 17 at this stage is premature. Claim 14 has been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended in a manner to fully address the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Applicants acknowledge indication by the Examiner that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and any intervening claims (none). In response, claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 14. On this basis, we submit that claim 1 is now in condition to be allowed. We submit further that claims 2-13 and 15-19, all of which dependent directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also in condition for allowance on that basis.

As mentioned above, claims 7, 9-12 and 17 are indicated to be withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected invention. However, these claims are, in fact, directed to provisionally non-elected species, with the election to take effect only if no generic claim was finally held to be allowable. We submit that claims indicated to be generic have now been placed in condition for allowance; therefore, claims 7, 9-12 and 17, directed to a non-elected species, should be allowed as well. The examiner is directed to MPEP §809.02(c), which says, in part,

When *all* claims to each of the additional species are embraced by an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141, applicant must be advised of the allowable generic claim and that claims drawn to the non-elected species are no longer withdrawn since they are fully embraced by the allowed generic claim.

Submitted herewith are seven (7) sheets of formal drawings (FIGS. 1-14) replacing the original informal drawings (FIGS. 1-14) filed in this patent application. No new matter has been introduced.

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We submit that this application, with claims 1-13 and 15-19, is now in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 10638-010001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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